

Storage Recommendations of Livestock Feeds

All livestock feeds have a shelf life, and the length of shelf life is dependent upon a variety of factors including how the crop was harvested, the type of process used during the feed manufacturing process and how the product is stored.

Champion Feed Services Ltd.'s strict guidelines for purchasing and receiving grain ensure that only dry grains are accepted. Wet grains cause problems at all stages, therefore every load is probed and the moisture is tested prior to accepting the load. Any loads that exceed maximum allowed moisture levels are rejected.

At the Champion Feed Services Ltd. mills, there are four main types of processes used in the manufacture of livestock feed – Grinding, Dry Rolling, Steam Rolling and Pelleting. Grinding and Dry Rolling are “dry” processes, and as such no additional water is added to the process. In Steam Rolling and Pelleting, water in the form of steam is added to the mixture to aid in the manufacturing process. The amount of steam added is calibrated and carefully monitored to ensure the overall moisture content of the feed is kept at acceptable levels. Water may be added to a pelleted feed if the grain and ingredients used are too dry; however only enough water is added to ensure the mixture will pelletize properly. In both Steam Rolling and Pelleting, the feed is cooled through an aeration process before it is placed in a holding bin prior to bagging/toting.

Whole grains and oilseeds have longer shelf lives than any grain that is processed, and the amount of fat in the grain will also directly impact shelf life. In general, the shelf life of grains and oilseeds that are high in fat content (oats, canola, flax and sunflower) and are dry processed (dry rolled) will be cut in half. Depending upon the weather (high humidity or severe temperature swings), the shelf life can be cut in half once again. For example whole oats (3.5% fat content), if stored properly, can store for approximately 1 year without storage losses. If oats are rolled in the fall, you can expect a 3 to 4 month shelf life; however if those oats are rolled in the summer, expect only 3 weeks of shelf life. Barley, on the other hand will have a slightly longer shelf life once rolled because its fat content is lower (1.5%). Barley rolled in the fall/winter can have a shelf life of approximately 6 months; and barley rolled during the summer is only expected to remain palatable for 3 months. When these same grains are steam rolled, the shelf life may be lower than the example provided above because additional moisture is added into the system.

CAUTION
STORAGE

Steam rolled feeds and/or pelleted feeds have a limited shelf life. Certain conditions such as temperature and humidity, etc. may affect shelf life.

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PROTECT YOUR VALUABLE PRODUCT FROM MOLD.
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Open Tote To Let It "Breathe".
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Keep On The Pallet To Let Air Flow Through The Bottom.
- 
Keep Inside An Unheated Environment.
- 
Keep Away From Sun Or Rain Exposure.
- 
Do Not Feed Moldy Feed To Your Animals.



CHAMPION
 Feed Services Ltd.
 Westlock, Barrhead, Grande Prairie
 Alberta

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The final storage location of processed feeds will also play a role in the shelf life of livestock feeds. Champion Feed Services Ltd. recommends that all processed livestock feeds that are packaged into bags or totes be kept inside an unheated environment, kept on a pallet to let air flow through the bottom and kept away from sun, rain or snow exposure. In addition, all totes should be opened to allow the product to “breathe”. Because it is impracticable to open bagged product, Champion Feed Services Ltd. recommends that livestock producers purchase smaller quantities of bagged processed feeds in order to limit the risk of carrying large inventories and not utilizing the feed in a timely manner. The figure on page one is a copy of the STORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS tag that is affixed to all Champion Feed Services Ltd. processed livestock feeds packaged in totes. When you see this tag affixed to your product, please read the tag to remind yourself of the helpful hints to maximize the shelf life of your processed livestock feed.

For the storage of bulk processed feeds, Champion Feed Services Ltd. does not recommend storage inside a metal grain bin, unless the feed will be fed out quickly. Changes in humidity and temperatures, especially during the summer months, can cause “sweating” inside the metal bin, which can promote heating and growth. Storage inside wooden bins is preferred.

Remember, do not feed moldy feed to your livestock. Moldy feeds can cause a variety of sicknesses in all ages of cattle.

If you have any questions regarding storage of any of Champion Feed Services Ltd. livestock feeds, please do not hesitate to call any Champion Feed Services Ltd. mill.

Barrhead 780-674-2910
 800-375-3381
 cfsb@championfeeds.com

Grande Prairie 780-532-3151
 800-243-0415
 cfsgp@championfeeds.com

Westlock 780-349-5886
 800-661-3924
 cfsw@championfeeds.com

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